

BLACKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

News Release

DATE: February 26, 2003
CONTACT: Lt. B.E. Bradbery 961-1810
SUBJECT: Police Vehicle Crash

Blacksburg Police are investigating a police vehicle crash that happened at 10:42 Tuesday night.

Blacksburg Police Officer Michael P. Czernicki was responding to a fight call in the downtown area when he proceeded through a red light at the intersection of Prices Fork and Toms Creek Road in a marked police cruiser. He was struck in the intersection by a 1999 Ford 4 door sedan that was traveling south off of Stanger Street onto Toms Creek Road. Czernicki, who was east bound on Prices Fork Road, had the emergency equipment on the 1997 Ford police car activated at the time of the crash.

After the initial impact, the police car veered left, crossed a concrete median, struck a third car and came to rest on the west bound side of Prices Fork Road. That third car, a 1999 Honda was setting in the left turn lane of Prices Fork preparing to turn onto Stanger Street.

Andrea Lynn Warrick, age 22 of Blacksburg, was operating the 1999 Ford sedan that originally collided with the police cruiser in the intersection. She was transported to Montgomery Regional Hospital with minor injuries following the crash.

The driver of the Honda, 23-year-old Hazel Leonard Acuesta, was not injured in the crash.

Officer Czernicki, who has been with the Police Department just over one year, was not injured.

Damage to the police car was estimated at 15,000, damage to the Ford is approximately 3000.00 and damage to the Honda is estimated to be 2000.00.

Weather did not appear to be a factor and the crash remains under investigation.